

Claims

1. A method of producing an image comprising:
providing a substrate;
depositing onto the substrate a material that sustains a relief
feature imparted thereto, the material comprising an emulsive agent
and a viscosity control agent; and
applying a coloring agent directly to the material.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising texturing the material
to correspond to a topography of the image.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising curing the material.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate is comprised of a
material selected from the group consisting of canvas, paper, wood,
ceramic, glass, metal, metal alloy, plaster, fabric, fiber, plastic, and
combinations thereof.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the emulsive agent is selected
from the group consisting of acid-processed gelatin, alkaline-processed
gelatin, derivatised gelatin, polyvinylacetate, and combinations thereof.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the emulsive agent comprises
alkaline-processed bone gelatin.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the viscosity control agent is
selected from the group consisting of cellulose, derivatised cellulose, starch,
wheat paste, acrylic resins, and combinations thereof.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the viscosity control agent is
selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl
cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, cyanoethyl cellulose, and
combinations thereof.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the emulsive agent comprises
polyvinylacetate.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the material further comprises an
ingredient selected from the group consisting of pigments, matting agents,
fillers, antistatic agents, surfactants, emulsifiers, UV absorbers, HAL
absorbers, plasticizers, and combinations thereof.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the material further comprises one or more ingredients selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, titanium oxide, and a combination thereof.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the depositing of the material is achieved manually.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the depositing of the material is achieved by automation.

14. The method of claim 2 wherein the texturing is achieved manually.

15. The method of claim 2 wherein the texturing is achieved by automation.

16. The method of claim 2 wherein the texturing is achieved with an implement selected from the group consisting of brushes, rollers, spatulas, sprayers, sponges, pallet knives, and combinations thereof.

17. The method of claim 2 wherein the texturing is achieved with a silkscreening process.

18. The method of claim 2 wherein the texturing is achieved with a mold having a form that corresponds to the topography of the image.

19. The method of claim 1 further comprising overlaying the substrate with a reference print of the image.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the applying of the coloring agent is achieved manually.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein the applying of the coloring agent is achieved by automation.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the coloring agent is applied with an inkjet printer.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein the coloring agent is selected from the group consisting of dye-based inks, pigment inks, solvent-based inks, and combinations thereof.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the coloring agent is water-soluble.

25. The method of claim 1 further comprising applying a primer coating to the substrate whereby adhesion between the substrate and the material is increased.

26. The method of claim 1 further comprising applying a finishing coat overlying the coloring agent.

27. A method of mass-producing an image comprising:
providing a substrate;

depositing onto the substrate a material that sustains a relief feature imparted thereto, the material comprising an emulsive agent and a viscosity control agent; and

applying a coloring agent directly to the material by an automated printing process.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising texturing the material to correspond to a topography of the image by a silkscreening process.

29. The method of claim 27 further comprising texturing the material to correspond to a topography of the image by a molding process.

30. A material for producing an image comprising:
an emulsive agent; and

a viscosity control agent, wherein the viscosity control agent is present in an amount effective for the material to sustain a relief feature imparted thereto.

31. A material for producing an image comprising:

an emulsive agent selected from the group consisting of acid-processed gelatin, alkaline-processed gelatin, derivatised gelatin, polyvinylacetate, and combinations thereof; and

a viscosity control agent, which is present in an amount effective for the material to sustain a relief feature imparted thereto.

32. The material of claim 31 wherein the viscosity control agent is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, derivatised cellulose, starch, wheat paste, acrylic resins, and combinations thereof.

33. The material of claim 31 wherein the viscosity control agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl

cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, cyanoethyl cellulose, and combinations thereof.

34. The material of claim 31 further comprising an ingredient selected from the group consisting of pigments, matting agents, fillers, antistatic agents, surfactants, emulsifiers, UV absorbers, HAL absorbers, plasticizers, and combinations thereof.

35. The material of claim 31 further comprising one or more ingredients selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, titanium oxide, and a combination thereof.

36. An image comprising:
a relief layer comprised of a material comprising:
an emulsive agent; and
a viscosity control agent; and
a coloring layer comprised of a coloring agent, wherein the coloring layer and the relief layer are in direct contact.

37. An image comprising:
a relief layer comprised of a material comprising:
an emulsive agent selected from the group consisting of acid-processed gelatin, alkaline-processed gelatin, derivatised gelatin, polyvinylacetate, and combinations thereof; and
a viscosity control agent, which is present in an amount effective for the material to sustain a relief feature imparted thereto; and
a coloring layer comprised of a coloring agent, wherein the coloring layer and the relief layer are in direct contact.

38. The image of claim 37 wherein the emulsive agent comprises alkaline-processed bone gelatin.

39. The image of claim 37 wherein the viscosity control agent is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, derivatised cellulose, starch, wheat paste, acrylic resins, and combinations thereof.

40. The image of claim 37 wherein the viscosity control agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl

cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, cyanoethyl cellulose, and combinations thereof.

41. The image of claim 37 further comprising a substrate in contact with the relief layer.